



U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Terri Rorke

A somber moment

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM—Army Chap. (Col.) Richard Rogers leads a prayer March 25 for six airmen killed when their HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter crashed near Ghazni, Afghanistan,

on March 23. The helicopter crew was on its way to pick up two Afghan children for treatment in U.S. medical facilities at Bagram Air Base. The remains were being flown to Dover AFB, Del. See more on this story on Page 2.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. James P. Johnson

Operation Iraqi Freedom

Master Sgt. Joe Cross, 384th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, ropes off a safe area far from an uncontrolled natural-gas fire in the Rumaylah oil fields in southern Iraq, March 23. Cross and other explosive ordnance disposal Airmen are disarming any unexploded ordnance and booby traps to help firefighters safely tackle the blaze.

Secretary, Chief of Staff address Operation Iraqi Freedom

WASHINGTON (AFP)—The following is a joint message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper:

"As our nation calls upon its armed forces to meet this next challenge in the war on terrorism, the men and women of the U.S. Air Force will play a pivotal role in striking our enemies, defending our coalition forces, and protecting our allies.

"As you have always done, you will perform your duties with honor, and with the knowledge that our nation's security de-

pends upon the excellence and professionalism of every Airman in our Air Force.

"Ours is the greatest joint warfighting force ever assembled, and our nation is blessed to have over 700,000 active, Guard, Reserve, and civilian Airmen taking the battle to the enemy and securing our homeland.

"You, the brave warriors who voluntarily risk your lives to protect our values and way of life, are the reason we will prevail in this fight.

"The American people have the utmost

confidence and trust in you, they support you, and are proud of your dedication. We couldn't be more proud of your service, and are both honored and humbled to lead this force.

"In this time of conflict and great sacrifice, the admiration, thoughts, and prayers of our entire nation are with you and your families.

"Do your duty to the best of your ability and we will secure victory, for the sake of our nation and freedom-loving people around the globe."

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Force Protection Condition BRAVO
Straight Talk 853-4636